

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/645,598

Examiner

Hoan H. Tran

Applicant(s)

NANJO ET AL.

Art Unit

2852

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed 12/07/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 8, 9 and 11-19.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>12/07/2006</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

Applicant's submission filed on 12/07/2006 has been entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-6, 8, 9 and 11-19 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-3 and 18

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a fixing apparatus comprising a fixing member composed of a support member formed of a ferromagnetic material and a heating layer formed adjacent thereto in a form of a thin film of a non-magnetic, electrically conductive material.

Claims 4-6 and 8

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a fixing apparatus comprising a pressure member that makes contact with a fixing member to form in between a nip through which paper is passed and that is provided with a heating layer formed of a magnetic metal, the

Art Unit: 2852

magnetic-metal heating layer having a thickness greater than a magnetic field permeation depth, and an exciting coil that is disposed outside the pressure member.

Claims 9 and 11-13

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a fixing apparatus comprising a pressure member that makes contact with a fixing member to form in between a nip through which paper is passed; wherein the pressure member is provided with a heating layer formed of a non-magnetic metal, and an exciting coil that is disposed outside the fixing member and inside the pressure member, near a portion thereof where the pressure and fixing members make contact with each other.

Claims 14, 15 and 19

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a fixing apparatus comprising a fixing member that is provided with a heating layer formed of a magnetic metal and a heating layer formed of a non-magnetic metal, the non-magnetic-metal heating layer being kept in intimate contact with an outer surface of the magnetic-metal heating layer, and an exciting coil disposed outside of the fixing member.

Claims 16 and 17

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a fixing apparatus comprising a fixing member that is provided with a heating layer formed of a magnetic metal and a heating layer formed of a non-magnetic metal, the non-magnetic-metal heating layer being kept in intimate contact with an inner surface of the magnetic-metal heating layer, and an exciting coil disposed inside of the fixing member, near a portion thereof where the fixing and pressure members make contact with each other.

Art Unit: 2852

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoan H. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-2141. The examiner can normally be reached from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. David Gray can be reached at (571) 272-2119. The central office fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

HHT
March 04, 2007


HOAN TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER